



City of Seattle

Seattle LGBTQ Commission



Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2022 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Commissioners Present: Victor Loo, Andrew Ashiofu, Steven Pray, Brett Pepowski, Nate Higby, Raja Fouad

Commissioners Absent:

SOCR Staff: Janet Stafford, Meredith Stone, Leo Segovia

Guests: Juan Monroy (Pending Appointment) and Shelby Hansen (Recommended to Seattle Disability Commission) Alex Tang (SHRC Commissioner)

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Steven Pray

Next meeting minute taker: Lillian Williamson

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were done, including guests.

Public Open Comment

Shelby asked what events the LGBTQ commission would be at in June. Asked if she should reach out to Brett to coordinate attending events. Shelby asked whether she should stay on call or send an email, and decided to stay on meeting. Nate offered to send Shelby an email afterwards as well.

Approve Minutes and Agenda

- April minutes: no amendments made. **Approved with unanimous consent.**

OCR Policy Updates

- Leo: Presenting “The Gender Justice Project” City of Seattle’s Gender Justice Initiative PowerPoint.
- Origin of work came from work and wage inequities within the City of Seattle. Work has historically focused on training and policy guidance on gender in the workplace.

- Policy Work Highlights: Paid Parental Leave; All Gender Restroom Ordinance; Ban on conversation therapy for minors; and criminal legal system.
- Summary of projects that Leo is currently working on.
- Nate asked about collecting city employee data.
- Andrew: Is there any focus on trans folks in city jail?
- Leo: We wrote a memo to the mayor's office
- Leo: It could be helpful for the commission to reach out to the Lavender Rights Project.
- Steven: Can you send us the PowerPoint?
- Leo: Yes

Bylaw Review & Workplan

- Andrew: The last time the bylaws were reviewed was 2018. There are some things that we need to change, add, amend. It's open for discussion. I would like to hear if anyone has any opinion on the bylaw review.
- This falls under Commission Operations—Steven
- Andrew: We would appreciate your legal expertise on this.
- Steven: I will review the bylaws and go over major things at our June meeting.
- Janet: If we could share out with the rest of the commission before the June meeting, that would be great. The workplan has been written, but it needs some work. The HRC did a revision on their bylaws and it was pretty extensive.
- At some point this will have to go through law
- Meredith: If there's a good draft, we can send it over to law at any time. Need to make sure that it conforms with the Seattle Municipal Code and City Charter.

Updates on Pride

- Victor: We are going to vote as a commission next month. I will not be at the pride flag raising as a healthcare worker and what the mayor has done around sweeps. We have not participated in the past because of issues related to SPD.
- Nate: Brett, do you want to share the correspondence and research that you did?
- Brett: I am a little unclear on the flag raising. I'm not sure if we have ever taken a vote on if we want to be there or have a speaker there. OCR has said they want us to come and read the pride proclamation. OCR also doesn't see why we wouldn't be able to speak further than just what's on the proclamation. Since we are able to make a speech at flag raising, that is an opportunity for us to engage with the mayor. I guess we can vote on that today? I don't know.
- Victor: Thank you for flagging, Nate, that the email was only sent out to a few of the people on the commission. I believe we will take a vote at this meeting about whether we would

participate. I think it would be a little contradicting for us not to participate but then have someone speak at the event.

- Andrew: This is a very tricky situation. We have to take a stand on what's happening with the sweeps. Our community has entrusted us to be their voice at the city level. If we speak there, we need to speak out on behalf of our community. We don't have to align with the mayor, but we can speak at the forefront.
- Nate: I think in 2020 we had opted out in participating, but maybe did in 2021.
- Janet: One item is, does the commission want to participate in this flag raising? That's something the commission needs to come in agreement. The meeting a week or two ago with the Mayor's office and OCR and two commissioners was more of a planning of the flag raising, the logistics. Could the commission provide some feedback on who could be community member as a speaker. I think those were provided this week back to the Mayor's office. That doesn't mean that the commission is going to be involved. I think that is the conversation that is currently happening now. A few of you did attend the flag raising last year, I can't remember in 2020 if anyone from the LGBT commission. We might have a meeting as soon as late June with the Mayor's office to talk about priorities of the commission.
- Meredith: I recommend setting up a meeting with the Deputy Mayor. This event is a day of celebration and you will have a point of contact with the mayor. This day really is here for the commission and the community. As far as relationship building goes, this could be an opportunity. Because we haven't done the flag raising in a big way in a couple of years, it may be more effective in reaching your goals, I don't know if talking about it on this podium will help your goals, it could be detrimental. The commission hasn't officially asked anything of the mayor.
- Nate: I will vote to have presence at the ceremony.
- Raja: I second Nate. Burning a bridge without having a sit-down first could put us in a bad stop.
- Brett: Meredith I appreciate your insight. I am also in favor of attending the ceremony. Should we state our values and priorities, rather than a this isn't what you're doing right now, but should. I don't think that would be burning a bridge, but also not going in there and saying that everything is fine.
- Brett: Do we want to talk about who would write the statement and who would give it?
- Andrew: This is very disingenuous and wrong for the mayor's office not to have reached out to the commissions, especially having a deputy mayor from our community. Whether we go or not, we should still have a statement.

VOTE: Should the LGBT Commission Participate in the Ceremony?

FOR- Brett, Andrew, Raja, Steven

AGAINST- Victor

Motion passed.

- Andrew will read the statement at the flag raising
- Nate, Brett, and Andrew will work on the statement

Pride— Victor

- Went over Asia Pride & proclamation happening on May 29 in Chinatown & asked for approval on proclamation.
- Thank you Janet for getting Deputy Mayor Harrell to be speaking at Pride Asia event.
- Nate: When we talked on Monday, we discussed what event do we want to be at? Now that we have \$800. Trans pride is on Friday June 24th, we believe that it will take place in capitol hill.
- Pridefest is June 25th in Cap Hill.
- Nate: We also talked a lot about trans pride. The values of those who organize with Trans Pride align more with the values of the commission. We should spend some time discussing what event we would like to be at, since we can probably only afford to go to one at this time.
- Brett: If we participate with the Mayor's office, it will be free for pride parade. However, do we want to align with the mayor? Would that be concerning? If we save money here, it could benefit the community down the line. They think they would have space for us on a float. That's just something for us to consider.
- Janet: In 2019, before COVID, there was commission presence at the Seattle Pride (parade).
- Steven: I would recommend the parade and trans pride
- Nate: I think our values really align most with the organizers of trans pride.
- Victor: I am also in support of trans pride.
- Brett: I don't know what kind of onsite support Trans Pride has. Some vague implication that they might have tables, but the site is unclear to me.
- Nate: In terms of the parade, if we don't do it as a group, people can still of course go as individuals.
- Nate: Let's pivot and focus on the parade if trans pride doesn't work out.

Committee Report Out

- Steven brought up bylaws and workplan review ahead of next meeting

SOCR Report

- Going into June and forward actual in-person space will be provided for public and anyone from the commissions who wants to join. This is effective as of June 9th under governor mandate. Meetings will be held hybrid so commissioners can continue to participate thru the current Webex platform
- Upcoming speakers will include:
 - Enforcement division from SOCR at June or July commission Meeting
 - Aja would like to provide an update on the Comprehensive Plan –between June and August

- Workplan updates – Lookout for OCR commission workplans to be shared. This is a good opportunity to cross reference any similar work and collaborate with each other
- Meet and Greet with Mayor’s office and OCR commissions- date TBD
- Digest reminder comes out the first week of each month – provide your information to SOCR staff to be included on digest
- Kyana will begin a Deep Dive questionnaire with a RSJI lens focus -this will be a commitment for the next 3 month, 4 hours per month

Co-chair Updates

- None

Announcements & Reminders – We are ending the meeting early since there are no further announcements and reminders.